

Message Text

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R 240906Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS STATE 099890

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GR

SUBJECT: TAX - EXEMPTION REQUEST ON MOTOR VEHICLE IMPORTS
INTO GREECE BY CHURCH GROUPS

1. CONGRESSMAN BURLESON (D-TX) WROTE THE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF A CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTER WHO WOULD LIKE TO IMPORT A VAN INTO GREECE FOR HIS CHURCH'S USE. MR. BURLESON REQUESTS THAT WE OFFER SOME SUGGESTION TO HELP REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TAX BURDEN IMPOSED ON MOTOR VEHICLE IMPORTS. (THE DEPARTMENT IS TRANSMITTING BY SEPTTEL A SIMILAR REQUEST FROM SENATOR ALLEN'S OFFICE.)

2. REQUEST EMBASSY ATHENS PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH A SUGGESTED REPLY TO CONGRESSMAN BURLESON'S LETTER, TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS IN PARA 3 BELOW.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF LETTER TO AMBASSADOR MC CLOSKEY:
DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: THIS LETTER IS WRITTEN IN BEHALF OF MR. GEORGE DUMAS, A MINISTER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT CONROE, TEXAS.

MR. DUMAS HAS WORKED IN GREECE IN THE PAST AS A MISSIONARY FOR THE CHURCH. HE ENCOUNTERS A PROBLEM EACH TIME HE ATTEMPTS TO IMPORT A CAR INTO GREECE AS THE TAXES ARE VERY
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PROHIBITIVE, OFTEN SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS. ON THIS
OCCASION, WHEN MR. DUMAS EXPECTS TO RETURN TO GREECE IN
AUGUST, HE IS INTERESTED IN SENDING A VAN AHEAD TO ASSIST
HIM WITH THE CHURCH WORK UPON HIS ARRIVAL. THIS VAN WILL
ALSO BE USED TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD. HE ADVISES THAT THE
CHURCH OF CHRIST IS OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED BY THE GREECE
GOVERNMENT AND, IN VIEW OF THIS, I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT PER-
HAPS OFFER SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR HIS FUTURE GUIDANCE.

WITH MANY THANKS AND KINDEST REGARDS, I REMAIN SINCERELY
YOURS, OMAR BURLESON END TEXT. SISCO

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 24 APR 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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